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*****U N C L A S S I F I E D*****S COPY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOMAK 24//

TO PASSAGE/COVEY/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH68558

TOMAK 24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
APRIL 27, 1976

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

I HAVE READ WITH GREAT CARE THE STATEMENTS OF THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER, THE SENATOR FROM MONTANA, AND THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY WHIP, THE SENATOR FROM WEST VIRGINIA, WHICH APPEARED IN YESTERDAY'S CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF VIEW WHICH THEY SO ELOQUENTLY SET FORTH.

IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR REMARKS, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO ITS MEMBERS, AND PARTICULARLY TO SENATOR JACKSON, FOR MY REMARKS IN AN OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT I MADE A MISTAKE.

OBVIOUSLY IT WAS A MISTAKE TO HAVE ENGAGED IN UNSUBSTANTIATED SPECULATION ABOUT TWO MEMBERS OF SENATOR JACKSON'S STAFF, EVEN THOUGH I MADE NO CHARGES AGAINST ANYBODY, AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A PRIVATE DISCUSSION. THEREFORE, I ALSO APOLOGIZE TO THEM.

WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE MATTER IN DETAIL, FRANKLY, WHAT HAS BEEN WORRYING ME IS THAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE INCREASINGLY LEARNING HOW TO USE OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND THE OPENNESS OF OUR SOCIETY, FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT, AND TOO OFTEN TO OUR DETRIMENT AS A PEOPLE AND AS A NATION. THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT CONCERNS ME VERY DEEPLY.

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT AT NO TIME DID I EVER INTEND TO IMPUGN THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AN INSTITUTION FOR WHICH I HAVE THE HIGHEST ESTEEM AND RESPECT.

THE ABOVE STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE AT 3:00 P.M. TODAY. THE APOLOGY WAS ACCEPTED BY MANSFIELD, M. BYRD AND JACKSON. JACKSON ALSO STATED AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED

*****WHHR COMMENT*****

HYLAND, MCFARLANE, RODMAN, SEC FILE

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THE MATTER WAS CLOSED.
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